

JOHN S. COCHENOUR.

APRIL 6, 1896.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed.

Mr. WOOD, from the Committee on Invalid Pensions, submitted the following

REPORT:

[To accompany H. R. 3189.]

The Committee on Invalid Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 3189) to increase the pension of J. S. Cochenour, submit the following report:

John S. Cochenour was enrolled December 24, 1861; was mustered as second lieutenant of Company H, Sixtieth Illinois Volunteers, February 17, 1862, and as captain of said company November 6, 1863.

On September 1, 1864, in the battle of Jonesboro, Ga., his left foot was shot off, and his leg amputated 10 inches below the kneejoint. It appears from the evidence on file in the Pension Office that this wound never entirely healed; that the flaps receded, rendering the end of the stump sore and ulcerated, and from that time to the present it often bleeds, discharging pus, and is painful. He has for this reason been unable to wear an artificial limb a portion of the time. He is now confined to his bed and has been most of the time for nearly six months past. He has heretofore frequently been confined to his bed, and the evidence clearly shows that he requires the frequent services of an attendant. As early as May 25, 1866, his medical examination shows him "totally incapacitated for manual labor" on account of this wound. He is now 55 years of age and his condition appears to be growing worse, rather than better, with his advancing years. His last medical examination, May 31, 1893, disclosed that the "end of the stump is sore and ulcerated."

Claimant was discharged on account of his wound December 14, 1864, from which time he was pensioned at \$20 per month, which was increased to \$24 from March 3, 1883, and to \$30 from August 4, 1886, which sum he is now drawing. Applications for increase were rejected August 26, 1875, and August 22, 1893.

The committee have examined the affidavits now on file in the Pension Office, of the following physicians: Z. D. French, J. H. Hundley, H. A. Lemen, M. D. Foster, and E. J. French, in addition to the reports of the medical boards. The affidavits of the following laymen have also been examined: O. C. Palmateer, Sylvester Utterback, Elizabeth Utterback, John C. Rush, Caroline C. Cochenour, D. Burnett, A. J. West, John A. Berry, Emily S. Clark, Calvin U. Fishel, also that of Hon. J. C. Allen, a former Member and Clerk of this House.

These affidavits show applicant entirely incapacitated for the performance of manual labor, and also that at times the attendance of

another person upon him is absolutely necessary. The witnesses how personal knowledge of his condition, and under the circumstances the committee are unable to perceive why the evidence of a layman is not as accurate and valuable as that of a physician.

There is no question but that \$30 per month is insufficient for applicant's care and support or that he ought not to have \$50 under existing law unless the same be very strictly construed. He requires "frequent" though not "periodical" attendance of another person.

In view of all the facts and the gallant record of this soldier the committee recommend the passage of the bill with these amendments: Changename in bill and title to "John S. Cochenour," and also add to the end of bill "in lieu of the pension he is now receving."

